

Application No.: 10/652800

Docket No.: TOW-039

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A fuel cell comprising a pair of separators and electrolyte electrode assemblies interposed between said separators, said electrolyte electrode assemblies each including an anode, a cathode, and an electrolyte interposed between said anode and said cathode, wherein each of said separators includes a first plate and a second plate stacked together in a stacking direction;

a fuel gas channel for supplying a fuel gas to said anode, and an oxygen-containing gas channel for supplying an oxygen-containing gas to said cathode are formed between said first and second plates;

a fuel gas supply hole extends through a center of a central region of said separators for supplying said fuel gas in said stacking direction;

discharge passages are formed around said fuel gas supply hole, and extend through said central region of said separators for discharging said fuel gas and said oxygen-containing gas after reaction as an exhaust gas in said stacking direction; and

a fuel gas distribution passage extends between said discharge passages along a surface of said separator, perpendicularly to said stacking direction for connecting said fuel gas supply hole and said fuel gas channel.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said discharge passages are connected to an exhaust gas channel formed between said separators at a position adjacent to said fuel gas channel and said oxygen-containing gas channel.

5. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein

a first protrusion is formed on said first plate, and a second protrusion is formed on said second plate, and said first protrusion and said second protrusion protrude away from each other such that said fuel gas supply hole extends through a space between said first protrusion and said second protrusion.

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6. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 5, wherein a seal for sealing said space is formed between said first protrusion formed on said first plate of one of said separators and said second protrusion formed on said second plate of the other of said separators.
7. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 5, wherein said first plate includes a first ridge and said second plate includes a second ridge;
said first ridge and said second ridge protrude oppositely to said first protrusion and said second protrusion, respectively; and
said first ridge and said second ridge are in contact with each other for forming said fuel gas channel and said fuel gas distribution passage.
8. (Original) A fuel cell according to claim 1, wherein said electrolyte electrode assemblies are arranged along at least one circle concentric with a central axis of said separators.